



# Arizona Registrar of Contractors

## Message from Israel G. Torres, Director

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### Current events serve as a reminder of the importance of quality construction, infrastructure

During recent weeks, we have all watched in horror the events unfolding in New Orleans and other parts of southeastern United States. The destruction and losses suffered by many thousands of people in the past month is a grim reminder of our vulnerability to weather, especially when the infrastructure is not equipped to withstand such extreme conditions.

The ROC has received dozens of telephone calls from licensed contractors interested in helping the hurricane-stricken communities in any way they can. Although not surprising, the caring spirit of members of the Arizona construction industry shows once again that licensed contractors care about their communities - even those located across the country.

For contractors and employees interested in offering their knowledge and expertise to the relief efforts, here are a couple of things to consider: Are you a member of a trade or professional association? Many associations are mobilizing to collect donations, offer assistance and use their skills to help in the areas of disaster as well as at the numerous refugee sites around the country. Check with the association you belong to or consider getting involved through one of these organizations.

Additionally, for those who would like to help by offering job opportunities to recently arrived evacuees, visit [www.az211.gov](http://www.az211.gov). This State of Arizona-sponsored Web site provides an area where prospective employers can post jobs, and this could prove to be a "win-win" for contractors in search of employees and evacuees who need employment so that they can start to get their lives back together.

Finally, as President of the National Association of State Contractors Licensing Agencies (NASCLA), I have been in close touch with my counterpart in Louisiana. The Louisiana State Licensing Board for Contractors (LSLBC) anticipates a great need in the future for skilled, knowledgeable contractors who can help with reconstruction efforts. Keeping this in mind, the LSLBC has put some things in place to expedite the process of applying for a Louisiana license. Its governing board plans to waive waiting periods and make the testing process a rapid one, and in some cases for out-of-state licensed contractors, trade exams will be waived. For more information, call 1-866-310-7879 or visit <http://www.lslbc.louisiana.gov/>.

As the relief efforts and reconstruction occur across the southeastern U.S., we know that licensed contractors will play an important part in these efforts. Thank you again to each and every Arizona contractor who has stepped up to help in these difficult times!

Israel G. Torres, Director

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### Investigations Update

#### Lake Havasu City man busted for contracting without a license, taking \$13,000 from local homeowner

9-16-05: The ROC notified local authorities after James W. Farr accepted almost \$13,000 to install granite counter tops for a Lake Havasu City homeowner. After leading the homeowner to believe a licensed contractor would actually do the work, Farr abandoned the job without returning the money to the customer. He was charged with contracting and advertising without a license, and the case was settled in court, where Farr received a \$1,790 fine and was placed on 12 months of probation. Farr also paid \$3,500 in restitution to the victim.



#### Chandler-area homeowners urged to be on the lookout

9-16-05: Chandler residents are warned to not do business with Javier Barron, an unlicensed contractor who scammed a local resident. Barron has a compliant against him with the ROC for contracting without a license. He was hired to perform landscaping work and after he was paid more than \$11,000, he did not complete the job. Criminal charges have been filed against Barron in Chandler City Court.

#### Protect yourself against unlicensed contracting scams!

To report possible fraudulent home improvement activities or if you have been approached door-to-door by someone claiming to be a contractor, contact the ROC at 602-542-1525 or toll-free outside Maricopa County at 888-271-9286, or visit [www.azroc.gov](http://www.azroc.gov). Check the company's license status and report the company

## ROC's advisory council names recipients for service awards

The second Annual Building Blocks of the Community Awards & Banquet was held on August 20 at The Wigwam Resort & Golf Club. The ROC's Industry Advisory Council (IAC) established this unique program to showcase the countless hours and financial contributions contractors invest in our communities statewide. At the event, the IAC named eight Building Blocks of the Community award recipients and two corporate awards of merit.



Among the recipients were general contractors, industry associations, subcontractors, and corporate associates who all contributed to their communities in an effort to make Arizona a better place to live, work and play. This year's award recipients were honored for various community service projects that made a difference in the lives of thousands of Arizonans in need.

This year's Building Blocks of the Community recipients and projects are (click on links for photo and project details):

### Subcontractors:

[Sturgeon Electric Company Inc.](#), Salvation Army in Phoenix

[Achilles Air Conditioning Systems Inc.](#), Arizona Builders' Alliance Volunteer Day for House of Neighborly Service in Tucson

### General Contractors:

[hardison/downey construction inc.](#), Assistance League of Phoenix Philanthropic Center in Phoenix

[HomCo Ace Home Centers](#), various community service projects in Flagstaff

[US Home Corp./Lennar](#), Swing for Life in Tucson

### Contractor Associations:

[Air Conditioning Contractors of America](#), Arizona Chapter, Project Cool Aid in Maricopa and Pima counties

[Mohave Valley Contractors Association](#), Academy of Building Industries in Fort Mohave

[Southern Arizona Home Builders Association](#), Chipping Away at Arthritis: SAHBA/ Lute Olson Golf Tournament in Tucson

### Corporate Awards of Merit:

[iMiX Group LLC](#), Town of Buckeye Skate Park

[KGUN 9 Television](#), Building Good News in Tucson

For a second year, the Associated Minority Contractors of America-Phoenix Chapter served as the premier sponsor of the event. Among the other sponsors were the American Subcontractors Association of Arizona Inc., Hunt Construction Group, Thomson Prometric, Builders' Book Depot/CASA Fenix Enterprises, Arizona Masonry Guild and American Builder Magazine.

Thank you to the winners and all the Building Blocks of the Communities nominees that generously contributed their time and expertise to improve and assist Arizona communities!

to the agency if you suspect a scam.

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### **ROC statewide outreach continues in October in Prescott**

The ROC continues to partner with contractors and homeowners as it conducts outreach across Arizona. From giving tips to contractors on how to keep their licenses in good standing, to educating homeowners about the importance of hiring a licensed contractor and informing seniors how to avoid being victims of home repair scams, the ROC offers presentations to a variety of groups statewide.

In September, the agency held its ROC Contractors Seminar in Prescott, with attendees from throughout Yavapai and Coconino counties. The response to this workshop, which provides tips to contractors on how to avoid complaints and keep their licenses in good standing, was overwhelming, and another workshop has been set for 4 - 6 p.m., Wednesday, Oct. 5. For more information, contact the ROC at 888-271-9286, ext. 7405. This free seminar is open to all Arizona-licensed contractors and their employees.

Additionally, Yavapai County homeowners are encouraged to attend the next Neighborhood Ambassador Program (NAP) presentation, scheduled for 7 p.m., Oct. 5, at the Prescott Police Department, 222 S. Marina Drive in Prescott. This crime-prevention workshop informs consumers about how to spot and prevent home repair scams that often target seniors and unsuspecting homeowners. These unlicensed scam artists go door to door offering "great deals" on left-over construction materials, taking money and doing shoddy work or no work at all. This workshop also stresses the importance of hiring licensed contractors for home construction, remodeling and repair jobs. To register, call 888-271-9286, ext. 7115.

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### **Contractors – renewing your license online is quick, easy and postage-free!**

Last month, the ROC kicked off its new Online License Renewal service and approximately 30 percent of August renewals were completed online via the ROC's Web site.



When contractors receive their renewal packets at the end of each month, included in the mailing will be information about how to use online license renewal, as well as a Personal Identification Number that will allow the licensee to renew online. To view a tutorial of the system, visit [www.azroc.gov](http://www.azroc.gov) and click on "Online License Renewal."

Special thanks to the industry members and contractors who participated in the development group for the system - the ROC's partnership with industry was invaluable to creating a system that would work well for its customers.

The ROC is dedicated to making its services more efficient and user friendly – as contractors complete their renewals online, a brief electronic survey is included at the end of the process. Please spend a few moments to respond to the questions so that the ROC can make this new, enhanced service as easy-to-use as possible.

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